



GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

JULY 2016 VOLUME 7 ISSUE 7

\$1

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INSIDE

Upside of backsliding – p. 2

Through another's eyes – p. 3

ADUs in Ann Arbor – p. 3

Vendor obituaries – p. 3

Deaf community justice – p. 4

Pedi-cab philanthropy – p. 6

Muslims among us – p. 7

Puzzles – p. 8

Hope Center – p. 9

Vendor spotlight – p. 11

Tzatziki sauce – p. 12



The upside of backsliding



by Susan Beckett
Publisher

The cover story run by *The Ann* last month left at least one reader wondering if she should continue to support all Groundcover vendors. The article was autobiographical and written by William Crandell, who also wrote for and sold Groundcover. He was candid about how his life fell apart and his subsequent drug and alcohol abuse, and that he sometimes used the money he earned selling Groundcover to buy alcohol.

I wish I could tell you that such a thing never happened or is extremely rare. It was one of my greatest concerns when

starting Groundcover. I asked advice from John Loring, a former addict himself and the then-director of PORT (an outreach division of Community Support and Treatment Services). He told me that an addict on a bender would not be organized enough to come to the office sober and with money to buy papers to resell. He said that someone determined to get high would find a way to do it, with or without Groundcover. He also said that the chances for recovery were much better if the individual had a structured activity and a community to return to.

With that in mind, we insist that vendors be sober when they buy and sell Groundcover News. We encourage treatment for those struggling with addiction. We strive to be a supportive community where vendors can find solace and companionship in a sober environment. We try to replace judgment with compassion. It's not easy.

It helps me to remember the words of Ingrid Munro, who ran Jamii Bora, a microcredit institution in Kenya: "One cannot lift a person out of poverty. What we can offer ... is a ladder that they can climb up to take themselves out of poverty. But the climbing they must do themselves."

She went on to say that some of Jamii Bora's borrowers are fast climbers and some of them are slow climbers – but they are all climbing.

That is how I look at Groundcover vendors. And when a person climbs, backsliding is not uncommon. Some take those first 10 free papers and parlay them into a viable income or a bridge to another job opportunity. Some, like Kevin Spangler (see article on page 6), are at a place in their lives where they are ready to leave addiction behind and soar – going on to create businesses of their own or reclaim their place in the

professional world.

Others sputter until they hit their stride. Then they often have long periods of stability until a calamity strikes and they lose their balance. Old traumas resurface. Dulling the pain leads back to old habits. And that first purchase might be financed by Groundcover sales. It could just as easily come from redeeming cans, panhandling or doing odd jobs.

But selling Groundcover has also become a habit and for many there is a pull to return that helps them recommit to sobriety. They miss their customers most of all. The conversation and support you provide makes them want to do better.

Thank you for being there for them.

GROUNDCOVER MISSION:

Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

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Is the Art Fair?

by Elizabeth S. Kurtz
Vendor #159

Now that the Ann Arbor Art Fair is just around the corner, many vendors are becoming anxious about whether or not they will maintain their sales levels during this busy week. Despite the fact that this is a venue where visitors from all over the world gather to observe works of art, the Groundcover News vendors must curtail their sales because the Art Fair encompasses much of the area where vendors are often stationed. Under current city rules, our only presence is the non-profit booth where Art Fair attendees can stop by, make a purchase or just learn about the street paper. This, however, still restricts the sales of vendors because our time at the booth is limited to two-hour slots.

The painful reality is that while the general public relishes this event for its own pleasure, for vendors it is a time for reduced sales and increased stress because an error in judgement over boundary restrictions could result in a fine which would take a toll on already-strained incomes.

Even though vendors are able to sell elsewhere during this week, we are not allowed where all the activities are taking place inside the fair. Instead we must greet already-wary customers on the far peripheries, hoping to somehow gain their attention as they enter and exit the event.

Groundcover should be welcomed at every event – not just on the merit of the paper, but because it represents the acceptance of those who are marginal-



Groundcover News volunteers and vendors at our booth during last year's Art Fair.

ized. While we are facing the crisis of homelessness, nothing in society should be business as usual, and it seems unfair that some have the luxury of enjoying the superfluities of life at the expense of others who can barely survive.

But the wary public dodges the issue of poverty and homelessness and it is not a stretch to think that city policies are contributing to this dilemma. The language on our permits is specific:

"All peddler/solicitor permits are INVALID during Ann Arbor Art Fair."

The chilling reality is that the laws that govern Groundcover sales within the Art Fair have not been revised in over three decades. When this permit went into effect, there had been no cuts to the federal housing budget. But since that time, the second-greatest recession in our nation's history has left its aftermath of homelessness and extreme poverty.

No city event should be a place for the public to forget that these problems exist, but rather should offer an opportunity to engage the Groundcover community further. To comprehend that vendors are not beggars, but are selling a product designed to eliminate the economic barriers and those of misunderstanding that exist between the haves and the have-nots. No venue should be off-limits for Groundcover to present this simple, yet powerful message.

Since their inception in the 1980s, street papers have transformed many lives with their simple win-win concept. I am convinced that once we are allowed a presence in the Art Fair, the lives of the thousands of visitors who make the annual trek to Ann Arbor Art Fair will be enriched by everything Groundcover News has to offer.

Through another's eyes



by Rev. Dr. Martha Brunell
Groundcover Contributor

I am writing this column the day after the devastating mass shooting in Orlando. As I write, I am thinking about my friends Peggy and Mitch. Peggy is a single mom, and her 20-year-old son Mitch is finishing up the last credits for his associate's degree with an intensive Spanish program in Costa Rica. Being a Spanish teacher is one of the options he's considering for his future. This is a big trip for Mitch and his mom; these weeks of study form the longest period of time they have

ever been apart. As he has grown up, Mitch has had some interesting "travel" experiences with his mom.

They haven't continent-hopped from country to country, but they have journeyed deeply in their home zone of northern Illinois at nature centers and forest preserves, along the rivers and across the prairie. Peggy holds a master's degree in wildlife management and works for the University of Illinois with master naturalists, with wildlife programs throughout the community focusing on species from monarch butterflies to large predators, with environmental education events, and with every imaginable group naming an outdoor question or interest. Some of the children I know here simply say: "Miss Peggy knows everything about nature." Mitch grew up in a kayak,

knee-deep in the Kishwaukee River, on forest trails, and in the company of animals large and small.

As a household, Peggy and Mitch have also hosted a number of exchange students over the years from Asia and Europe. Their home life has been enriched with new religious practices, food, cultural habits, and ongoing personal connections with former students who consider them family.

Before Mitch left on his Costa Rican adventure, I looked at him one day and told him that the great gift I was aware his mother had offered him was the gift of viewing the world from another's eyes. In their case, those eyes have been not only from diverse human beings but also from multiple species. Such a gift this young man carries into the early steps of his own life. If we don't have that gift already, we would be wise to open ourselves up to a version of seeing from multiple perspectives.

Whenever we choose to primarily be present with another or with others, laying aside our tendency to judge,

put in a category, and manage, we have opportunities to look through another's eyes, to see and to understand from perspectives that stretch us. The broad community that clusters with one another as Groundcover News provides me and others a chance for a fresh look-see at life. One of my favorite parts of writing this monthly column is pausing to picture the array of people the column will touch, the web of connections spun among us even if we don't know each other by name.

It is imperative now and going forward for everyone to approach the world from a widening viewpoint. We aren't always right. We don't know everything. A good solution, a helpful answer, a way through the seemingly impossible doesn't lie within the narrow confines of who we already are. The challenge every day that is ours is the challenge to grow up, to grow down, to grow out, and to grow together. Peggy and Mitch remind me of the commitment to seek out the world through another's eyes for the sake of our greater and greater wellbeing. Who reminds you?

Advocating for ADUs



The hosts of the weekly strategizing meetings are, left to right, Jose Galofre, Caleb Poirer, and Mark Douglas.

by Mark Douglas
Groundcover Vendor #281

An Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) is part of a conventional home that is designed or configured to be used as a separate dwelling unit and has been established by permit. Across the country, ADUs have been proven to be effective solutions to the affordable housing challenges many communities face.

Last month we informed our readers of Ann Arbor's intention of developing plans for ADUs. We at M.I.S.S.I.O.N.A2 would like to extend a sincere apology to anyone who may have been inconvenienced

by our announcement that ADUs would be addressed at the June 20 City Council meeting – the date was changed after the article was submitted for publication. The July Ann Arbor City Council agenda has been set, and the new date for the first meeting is July 7.

The M.I.S.S.I.O.N.A2 working group continues to hold weekly Thursday meetings convening at 11:00 a.m. at Sweetwaters Cafe on Washington and Ashley to strategize and organize for these City Council meetings. Look there for the folks in the picture [see photo] or text us at (734) 660-2140 to arrange participation.

Unexpected passings



Photo by: Benjamin Weatherston

Born June 15, 1968 and raised in St. Joseph, Michigan, William Crandell came to Washtenaw County earlier this year to try to piece his life back together. He was a special education teacher, a writer, and recently, a Groundcover News vendor and contributor. Sadly, he encountered one more disappointment than he could bear and took his life on June 16, 2016.

He is survived by his ex-wife Janine Crandell, his step-children Cassidy and Jacob Brown of Baroda, Michigan, brother David Crandell of Boca Raton, Florida, sister Joelle Crandell of New Castle, Delaware, and numerous aunts, uncles, nephews and nieces.



by Diahann Chatman
Groundcover Contributor
& Tyrone Taylor
Groundcover Vendor #243

Loretta Shaw, Groundcover Vendor #264, passed on in her sleep on June 17, 2016. She and Tyrone Taylor, also a Groundcover vendor, became acquainted at her brother's twenty-first birthday party. Later in life, they united in marriage. Loretta had two kids, a boy and a girl, three sisters, and a brother. Both of her parents are deceased.

Loretta loved to sell Groundcover papers at the Ypsilanti Farmers' Market, spend time in the park, barbecuing, and cooking for others. Loretta was a very fun-loving person with a great smile that drew people in. She will be missed.

Understanding the Deaf community and the injustices they face

by West Resendes and Angie Martell
Groundcover Contributors

Imagine living in a world where no one knows your language and you must navigate everyday life using interpreters and special services to help you communicate with others. Now imagine a world where everyone is deaf and you are the only hearing person and you are excluded because of your "hearing" disability and you are labeled as an "other." That parallels the reality for the American Deaf community. That is Resendes' reality as a deaf man and the world Martell's parents face.

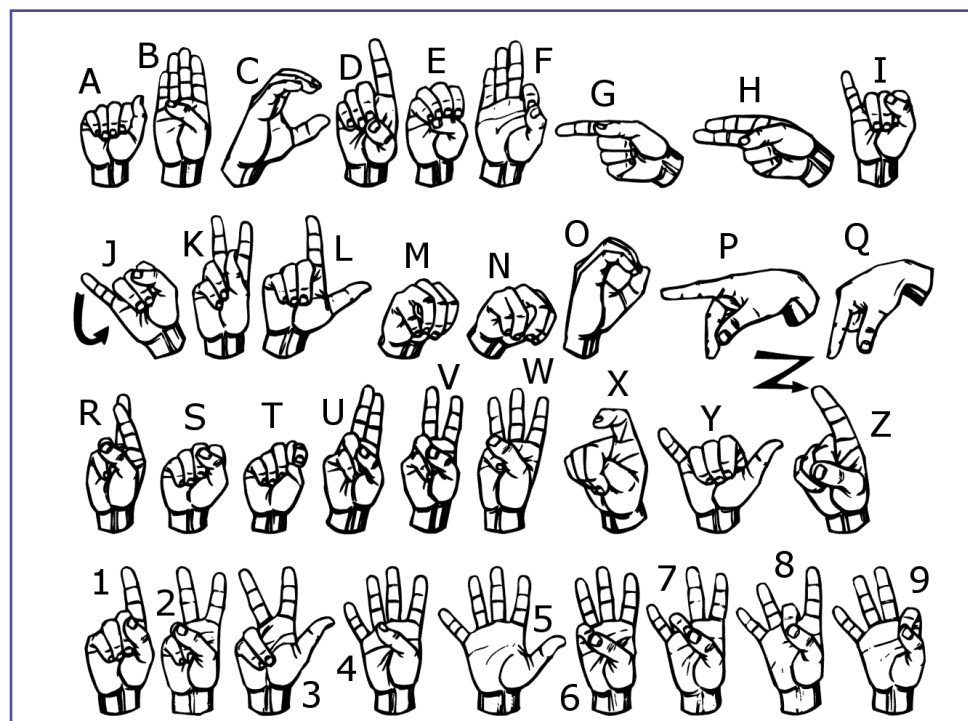
There are approximately 1.4 million deaf and hard-of-hearing people living in Michigan and over 38 million deaf and hard-of-hearing people across America. The deaf community is a vibrant and warm community that, unfortunately, has been marginalized by mainstream hearing society.

Deaf people bear the scars of daily discrimination and oppression. Deaf people have faced generations of systemic discrimination, including forced sterilizations in the 20th century. The relationship between the hearing community and the Deaf community has often been strained due to the continued lack of understanding of the Deaf community and its values, and the subsequent paternalistic perspective of hearing people in knowing what is "best" for the Deaf community and forming policies for Deaf individuals without their input.

American Sign Language (ASL) is the language of the cultural Deaf community, and a sophisticated visual-gestural language with its own syntax and grammar distinct from English. Eye contact is immensely important in ASL, as it allows you to see the facial grammar of ASL and conveys to your conversational partner that you are paying attention to their message. ASL's grammar is more similar to Spanish than English and throughout the world there are different sign languages specific to each country – even England!

Why don't all Deaf people know and use English? There is a longstanding and seemingly logical viewpoint that learning how to speak should be the priority for any deaf child if they are to succeed in hearing society, and that sign language is to be avoided because it would only distract deaf children from learning how to speak.

Despite popular beliefs, it is physically



The American Sign Language alphabet

impossible for a Deaf person to read lips fluently, as only 30 percent of all spoken sounds are visible on the lips. Many hearing parents – to whom 90 percent of deaf children are born – and schools have adopted this "oralist" approach, despite research showing that this focus on speech for children who have limited or zero hearing ability comes at the great cost of not fully learning a first language during the critical first years of a child's life. If sign language is good for hearing babies, why not also for deaf babies? We see the ripple effects of these decisions about language choice throughout deaf individuals' lives. The typical deaf person struggles to learn English. Based on SAT scores, the median deaf high school graduate reads at a fourth-grade level.

With society's lack of fluency in ASL and understanding of the Deaf community come challenges in other aspects of daily life for deaf individuals: employment, higher education, healthcare, mental health services, emergency preparedness, technology, and government benefits. Employers oftentimes avoid hiring a deaf employee as they see a person who will need costly accommodations. This assumption is invalid, as many deaf employees are able to adapt well to the job. Employers need to remember that we are a diverse society of unique individuals with unique strengths.

Professional schools have refused to provide accommodations to deaf students, despite being compelled to do so by the 25-year-old Americans with Disabilities Act. This far-reaching law also guarantees accommodations that provide equal access to healthcare for individuals with disabilities, including deaf people.

to understand your diagnosis through brief notes on a piece of paper or on a monitor that you cannot clearly see.

Access to mental healthcare is one of the most important issues facing the Deaf population today, as the rates of sexual abuse are staggering in deaf children: 54 percent of deaf boys and 50 percent of deaf girls have experienced sexual abuse, compared to 10 percent and 25 percent of their hearing counterparts.

Some states have introduced "Text-to-911," which can save lives since a deaf individual may not always have immediate access to a videophone to make a 911 call. Advances in technology – including texting – have vastly closed the communication gap between deaf and hearing people, but technology also remains woefully behind in other respects, such as the lack of closed-captioning on the majority of online videos. Furthermore, accessing the government's benefit programs and services is an onerous process for a native English speaker, never mind someone with limited English ability – which may limit that cultural group's ability to lobby the government for better resources.

This is most clearly exemplified by the budget differential of the Michigan state offices servicing the Deaf and the Blind: for the 2015 fiscal year, the Division

see DEAF COMMUNITY, page 5



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Understanding the Deaf community

continued from page 4

on Deaf and Hard of Hearing had a \$785,600 budget servicing a population of 866,879 individuals with hearing loss, while the Michigan Commission for the Blind had a \$23,567,222 budget servicing a population of 199,400. Per person, an individual with a visual impairment received \$118.19 operating dollars annually, whereas a person with hearing loss received a miniscule 91 cents, despite their population being more than four times larger.

What can you do to help? First, share the story of the Deaf community with your family, friends and coworkers. Second, be cognizant of the words you choose. Expressions like "it falls on deaf ears" and labels such as "deaf-mute," "hearing-impaired," and "hearing-disabled" are long outdated and offensive. Do not perpetuate the marginalization of the Deaf community. Third, when interacting with a deaf person, remember the following:

10 tips when communicating with a deaf person:

1. Before speaking, get the person's attention with a wave of the hand or a gentle tap on the shoulder. Do not shout for the person's attention.
2. Face the person and do not turn away while communicating.
3. Try to converse in a well-lit area and do not cover your mouth or chew gum.
4. If a person is wearing a hearing aid or cochlear implant, do not assume the individual can hear and understand you completely. Minimize background noise and other distractions whenever possible.
5. Talk at your normal rate, or slightly slower if you normally speak very fast. Yelling or raising your voice will not help you be understood better. Only one person should speak at a time.
6. Use visual aids when possible, such as pointing to printed in-

formation. Remember that only about one-third of spoken words can be understood by lip-reading.

7. When communicating via written notes, keep in mind that the deaf person may lack fluency in written English but may not admit it to you and instead pretend to understand what you are writing.
8. If you feel a deaf person may not be understanding you, write a note to ask what communication aid or service they need.
9. When you are in any complex conversation with a person whose primary language is ASL, a qualified interpreter is almost always needed to ensure effective communication. When using an interpreter, look at and speak directly to the deaf person, not to the interpreter.
10. Always communicate or speak directly to the deaf person and use professional ASL interpreters in professional settings and formal social settings. (Using family members or children as interpreters not only disempowers the deaf person, but those who are not professionally-trained interpreters will almost certainly lack the vocabulary or the impartiality needed to interpret effectively.)

If you want to learn or do more, you can always reach out to us at Iglesia Martell Law Firm and we can connect you with different volunteer organizations and task forces committed to equality for the Deaf community.

West Resendes has worked at Iglesia Martell Law Firm as a paralegal for the past two-and-a-half years. He is leaving for Yale Law School this fall, where he aims to become an attorney to make a difference in the world.

TWO FUTURES ONE COMMUNITY

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Michigan for
health factors



Washtenaw ranked
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Counties for
income inequality

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points in student
test scores

#6 Cities that
are secretly
great for
tech grads



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economically
segregated city

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housing market
in the country



Washtenaw #1
most expensive
rental market in
Michigan

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for families &
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millennials



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Pedi-cab philanthropist

by Gretchen Mason
Groundcover Contributor

When you think of great philanthropists of Ann Arbor, more than likely a pedi-cab driver does not immediately come to mind. Interwoven into the city's architecture is the work of famous philanthropists; buildings at the University of Michigan proudly bear their names and a world-class hospital that stands next to a beautiful botanical garden create the skyline that reminds us of the generous donations these philanthropists made. However, one of the greatest forms of philanthropy that Ann Arbor holds, I would argue, is not held stagnant in the cityscape, but rather sits behind a set of two wheels and beneath the rim of a Cheshire Cat baseball cap.

Walking down East Liberty on a warm spring night, a friendly guy pulled up to the curb on his pedi-cab and happily asked if my boyfriend and I needed a lift to where we were going. Both being "frugal" college students, we smiled back but refused his offer. We were interested in what it would be like to ride in the bright turquoise contraption, but unwilling to cough up the money for the service. With this, we received a wave inviting us into the cab. The driver told us that his rides were free, and solely donation-based. He proceeded to tell us that hopping into the cab would actually help him get business. Little did we know that soon enough, we would be staring at the back of one of the most whole-hearted givers this world has to offer.

Kevin Spangler is the founder of



Kevin Spangler, owner of BOOBER, shows off one of his five pedi-cabs in front of Nickels Arcade.

BOOBER, an Ann Arbor-based pedi-cab service that is donation-based and goes far beyond the simple concept of giving people a lift. After going through a difficult journey that was neither leaving him fulfilled nor letting him fill others in the way he had the capacity to do, Kevin knew that he needed to find a new avenue to give back in the most meaningful way he could. When I asked Kevin why he started BOOBER his response was immediate: it was for his son and for himself. Due to his past, Kevin found himself in jail one day, without a driver's license and with a son on the way. During this time, he was able to self-reflect and redefine his spiritual, physical, financial, and relational goals. Out of these contemplations, BOOBER was created. Kevin wanted a way to support his family while simul-

taneously being able to raise his child with his girlfriend – something that was very important to him.

Today, Kevin works tirelessly each day and all of the money he receives from cab fares goes directly to rent and right back into the business. Currently there are seven other drivers working for him. When I asked him about his work team, Kevin emphasized over and over again his continual gratitude for what his work partners do each day. Even though Kevin is the founder, he treats his fellow drivers as business partners that lift him up each day. Creating these jobs sprang from his goal to create a job for both himself and others that would allow his team to not have to hold multiple minimum-wage jobs, and instead

have a stable job that they were passionate about. Kevin doesn't tell people how to do things; he does it with them.

When I asked Kevin if he ever previously considered himself a philanthropist, he reassured me that that was the plan all along. Going forward, his goal is to make enough money to re-invest in the business and eventually start his own nonprofit that centers on empowering youth that have been in and out of trouble to create more young entrepreneurs and philanthropists. Kevin would act as a mentor and motivational influence as a means to show kids what already lies inside them.

For Kevin, the thing that gets him out of bed each morning is his family and the ability to put a smile on someone's face each day. As he told me, when you're in the pedi-cab you cannot help but smile and laugh. Kevin does not charge people, but simply asks for a donation, if the rider so chooses, that is measured by what they thought the ride was worth. Kevin is all about helping people get from point A to point B, whether that is on a warm May evening on East Liberty, or if that means getting back on your feet after being in and out of youth delinquency centers.

The next time you draw the picture of what philanthropy looks like in Ann Arbor, Michigan, continue to look at the beautiful bell tower and sharp edges of the business school – but don't forget to include the ever-moving man on his bicycle, grin held, and aspiration untethered.

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Pope Francis speaking about Luke 6:36-37

Mass Schedule

Saturday

5:00 p.m.

Sunday

7:00 a.m. 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.

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The Muslims among us

by Martin Stolzenberg
Groundcover Contributor

In mid-December, 2015 I attended a gathering at a local mosque, the Ann Arbor Islamic Center, to rally the community around our Muslim inhabitants. It was gratifying to see 500-600 of my neighbors come to support an endangered minority.

Padding around in my socks, I was able to look at posters around the building that described the origins of Islam and its connections to both Judaism, through Abraham, and Christianity, through Jesus, whom Muslims consider a revered prophet. There were panels with Koranic writings that preached brotherhood and tolerance. There was a *kumbaya* feeling, made even more appealing by the delicious Middle-Eastern food that was served.

Speakers included a rabbi, a minister and an imam, representing each of the major faiths, and the mayor of Ann Arbor, Christopher Taylor. (He was immediately recognizable to me as he was the only one wearing a suit.) They all spoke movingly about what good people the Muslims are, and how this country has had a history of persecuting minorities, interning them, as we did to the Japanese in World War II, and/or refusing them entry into the country as we did in the 1930s to the Jews who were fleeing Nazi Germany.

We were told that this mustn't happen again, and we should not listen to the voices of the demagogues and racists. One speaker went so far as to thank Donald Trump for creating the large turnout.

I thought about the few local Arabic-appearing people I know who are probably Muslims. (After all, you don't go around asking people if they are Muslims.) There is the nice guy Majeed and his father, who take such good care of my car; Moin Jaffer, who fixes my computer when it goes a little berserk; the nice young couple who make those wonderful falafels at Pita King; and Waleed, the smiley guy who greets me so warmly at the nearby Health & Fitness Center. All of them are so friendly, intelligent and anxious to please. It is a pleasure to deal with them, and I like to think of them as almost friends. *Maybe potential friends?*

President George W. Bush was notable in his defense and support of the country's Muslim population after the al Qaeda attack led by Omar bin Laden in 2003. For the past several years, President Obama has been careful to refer to "radical terrorists" rather than "radical Muslim terrorists."



Author Martin Stolzenberg surrounded by his mechanics Majed Kahala (left) and his father Essim and at their Citgo station.

This is fair. The right wing, here in the U.S., has wrongly beaten up on the President, accusing him of coddling this group by not associating the religion's name with the terrorists. Let's face it: such extremists are only using their religion as a cover. They are about as religious as any atheist. To label them as Muslims is an injustice to the religion of Islam. When we have a terrorist attack here by white supremacist groups we don't call them "radical Christian terrorists," do we?

The overwhelming majority of Muslims, it seems to me, are like those people I know in Ann Arbor. They are hardworking, good citizens and parents, and proud to be Americans.

President Barack Obama visited a mosque on February 3, 2016. It was his first visit to a mosque in the United States. He reassured the attendees that they "fit right in here." He further objected to any counterterrorist plans that would single out Muslims for special scrutiny.

However, the President did urge Muslims to speak out against terrorism. Is that singling-out justified?

I feel the President is misguided on this matter. The Muslim community is already doing that. Of the last 10 terror plots attempted by Muslims, seven have been thwarted by Muslims coming forward. What's more, according to Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca, "When state law enforcement agencies were asked to rank the terrorist groups in their midst, Muslim extremists ranked 11 out of a list of 18. Neo-Nazi, environment extremists and anti-tax groups were all more prevalent."

Like the President, the public is critical and asks, *Why don't Muslims speak out against terrorism?* Well, it turns out they do. In an article in *The Huffington Post* of May 25, 2011 it was asked: "Why do the media fail to report on Muslims who condemn terrorism?"

It went on to comment that every single major Muslim group in the United States has pointedly editorialized on the murders of innocent people in the name of Islam. There were, and continue to be, outspoken condemnations of the terrorists by *The Islamic Society of North America*, *The Council of American-Islamic Relations*, *The Muslim Public Affairs Council*, *Muslim Community USA*, and nine prominent Muslim scholars. However, the media ignores them – virtually every time.

"The United States is home to about 7 million Muslims and, for many of them, a series of recent terror attacks organized or inspired by the Islamic State has made being Muslim a challenge – to their religion and to their efforts to integrate into American society," editorialized *Voice of America* in December, 2015.

"We are part of this community in America," said Ahmed Mashaal, an American Muslim and specialist in Islamic law. "We are part of the fabric from the early days of the American history. Many Muslims who were born, raised and educated in the United States feel a duty to fight the spread of radical ideas being preached under the guise of Islam."

One commenter noted, "*What do any of us do to prevent the actions of terrorists anywhere?*" These people are trying, and it is the fault of the media that their message has not been widely heard. It is like a tree that falls in the forest that no one hears. *If no one hears it, did it really fall?*

This may be hard for some to handle, but foreign terrorists are not much of a threat, anyhow. In 2009, the *Department of Homeland Security Office of Intelligence and Assessment* concluded that white supremacy lone wolf terrorists threatened the security of our country more than any other group. You know the kind of guys – like Timothy McVeigh, who blew up the government building in Oklahoma City in 2001, or Jared Lee Loughner, who shot Representative Gabby Giffords in Arizona in 2011.

The Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks hate groups in the United States, estimates that there are a little more than 930 such groups in the country right now. Most of these are white supremacist groups or white nationalist groups, according to Potok, a senior fellow at the SPLC.

And the number of such groups has been growing by leaps and bounds since the election of our African-American president. All are capable of trying to commit some act of terrorism.

If safety from horrific attacks is our

see MUSLIMS, page 10



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7				2				5
			4			1	6	
9		7		3				4
6	8		1		7		2	3
3				6		7		1
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2				4				9
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Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

Cryptoquote:

RO YIW'C GSQRUL, PXTVT
SVT OI IDPCRWTVC, OI
TOTQRTC.
— WTCQIOW PDPD

Clue: Q = M

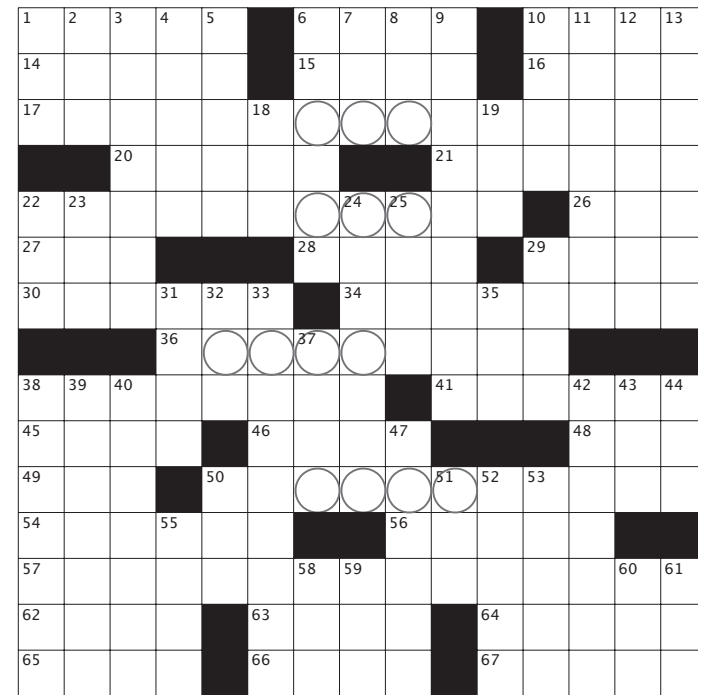
And Now, For a Brief Message Peter A. Collins

ACROSS

1. "The Kiss" painter
6. Shows disdain
10. "Shane" star
14. Talkative bird
15. Composer Satie
16. Small Chevrolet
17. Event promoted by Eunice Kennedy Shriver
20. ___ Motors (Elon Musk's enterprise)
21. Piano parts
22. Doc's box?
26. Mai ___
27. Wyo. neighbor
28. Rod's partner
29. Injured, as a muscle
30. Tundra producer
34. Museum worker, at times
36. Founder of an eponymous coffee-and-doughnut chain
38. Newbies on the job
41. Rises
45. Montreal's hockey squad, familiarly (with "the")
46. Drops in a puddle?
48. Marine band?
49. Sex Pistols' label
50. Pet store purchase
54. Leo's location
56. Office notes
57. Knee-jerk reaction (and a hint to each group of circled letters?)
62. 2009 AL home run co-leader Carlos ___
63. Without rocks
64. Waist-length jackets
65. Certain NCO
66. Succumbs to gravity
67. Playground comeback

DOWN

1. Canadian hwy. units
2. Pass on the track
3. Freezer item
4. Knight clubs?
5. Degree-of-difficulty enhancer
6. Upscale L.A. area
7. Guadalajara gold
8. Fix a squeak
9. Army chaplains
10. Sgt. Friday's employer
11. Amelia Earhart, for one
12. Make known
13. Spies file
18. Pie ___ mode
19. Intersected
22. Meltdown
23. Possible response to "Who wants dessert?"
24. Bank account increaser
25. She played "I" in "The King and I" film
29. Carrie Underwood might carry one
31. Frequent occupier of the Mayberry jail
32. Word before can or pan
33. Yanks
35. Milk dispenser?
37. Cops
38. University of Akron athletes, collectively
39. Rock's Joey, Johnny, and Dee Dee
40. Permanent
42. "Why don't we give it a miss"
43. Director Spike or Ang
44. Camera type
47. N.L. East team
50. Chiang ___-Shek
51. "___ Miserables"
52. R & R Hall of Fame designer
53. Tugboat warnings
55. "Let's just leave ___ that!"
58. Bucolic expanse
59. Duster
60. ___-cone
61. That, to Tomas



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Groundcover Vendor Code

While Groundcover News is a nonprofit organization and newspaper vendors are considered contracted self-employers, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:

- Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$1, or the face value of the paper. I agree not to ask for more than face value or solicit donations by any other means.
- I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.
- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News Staff and will not sell

to or buy papers from other Groundcover News vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.

- I agree to treat all customers, staff and other vendors respectfully. I will not "hard sell," threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover News but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
- I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover News and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.
- I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover News.
- I understand to refrain from selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.
- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.

If you see any Groundcover News vendors not abiding by the code of conduct, please report the activity to:
contact@groundcovernews.com
734-707-9210



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bethlehem-ucc.org

Bethlehem Church is the home of the Groundcover office

Sunday Worship Times
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10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Summer Sunday school, 10:15 a.m.
Fellowship Hour follows each service



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Improve your health with help from the Hope Center

by Alice Newell
Groundcover News Contributor

With warmer weather here, people seek a spark for a new beginning. But when faced with challenges, it can be difficult to find resources to accommodate certain needs. A helping hand is key to making a pivotal turnaround to a healthy lifestyle.

Washtenaw County is privileged in having resources to assist people making a healthy change. Hope Center, located at 518 Harriet Street in Ypsilanti, is one of the many community agencies that has helped individuals reach their goal of better living. It has a reputation of giving back to the neighborhood in many ways. They offer medical, dental, personal, laundry and financial assistance help to people in need.

Hope offers a wellness class every spring called the Prescription for Health Program (PHP). It is funded by the St. Joseph Mercy Health System in cooperation with other medical organizations doing community outreach to promote healthy living. Participants must meet certain requirements and the group space is limited. The main goal of PHP is to educate individuals on how to plan and set goals to attain a healthy lifestyle.

Interested individuals attend a group orientation where each person receives rich information on how the program works and setting realistic life changing goals. PHP also teaches how to start and continue a regular 30-minute exercise program. They have a walking



Prescription for Health Program tokens for farmers markets make healthy food much more affordable for local residents committed to healthy living.

club that meets on Saturday mornings between 9 and 10 a.m.

In one of the nutritional lessons to develop healthier living, participants learn how to make healthy food choices on a budget. Individuals that participate in the PHP program are given \$100 in food tokens for 10 visits to shop at a local Farmer's Market within the surrounding Ypsilanti area. The participating fresh produce markets are located in Ypsilanti, Pittsfield and Chelsea. For further information or questions about the Prescription for Health program, contact Ariache Reister, Health Educator with Washtenaw County Public Health, at (734) 544-2969. PHP can also be found online at washtenaw.org/prescriptionforhealth.com.

Hope Center recently took action to

further increase the accessibility of fresh fruits and vegetables in their neighborhood by expanding their food program. Hope converted what used to be a Domino's Pizzeria into Har-

riet Street Farm Stand 454. It is run by Mary Dekker, the food program's manager. There are no requirements and walk-ins are accepted, but Hope prefers that you call ahead to make an appointment. Their scheduled distributions are on Mondays at 2 p.m. and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. Participants receive seasonal fruits and vegetables based on whatever is donated through Food Gatherers and other contributors. Dekker said, "They are blessed to have the program available to the community."

These are just some examples of available resources to aid in obtaining a healthy lifestyle. Even individuals facing challenges and on a tight budget can achieve a better way of living.

Interested individuals can call the Hope Center at (734) 484-2969 ext.215 to make an appointment, or visit them online at www.thehopeclinic.org.

Groundcover vendor finalist for writing

A highlight of the International Network of Street Papers (INSP) annual summit is the excellence awards presented to street paper contributors from around the world. Elizabeth "Lit" Kurtz, who sells and frequently writes for Groundcover News, was among the six finalists in the **best submission by a vendor** category. Her entry, *Living "Out Here,"* was originally published in the May, 2015 issue of Groundcover News. If you missed it, you can find it in the Archive section of our website, groundcovernews.org.

Congratulations, Lit, and thank you for contributing to the excellence of our paper!

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- Calm and patient demeanor
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- Proven experience in multi-tasking and meeting deadlines
- Able to lift 20 pounds
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The Muslims among us

continued from page 7

focus, there are other things we should be more concerned with. According to Congresswoman Jackie Spear, the *California Department of Justice* estimated that there were over 34,000 guns in the state owned by people who have committed felonies, domestic violence and are mentally unstable. Why doesn't the government go after the 18,000 people who own these guns instead of sniffing around after law-abiding people in Muslim communities?

The overwhelming majority of Muslims in the United States go about their business. Muslim Americans constitute only one to two percent of the population, but account for five percent of the doctors in our country.

Notable Muslim Americans include:

- Fazlur Rahman Khan, an engineer who designed the structural system that enabled the construction of the ubiquitous skyscrapers that identify our cities
- Huma Abedin, aide to presidential candidate Hillary Clinton
- Dr. Ayub Ommaya, who developed a technique for getting chemotherapy directly to the brain

“Muslim Americans are just like other Americans. They are doctors, lawyers, teachers, soldiers, engineers, business people... and even in government”

- Ernest Hamwi, who invented the ice cream cone at the 1904 World's Fair
- Mohammed Ali, perhaps the greatest boxing champion of all time
- Dr. Mehmet Oz of the Oz Show.
- Ice Cube, rap artist and actor.

But let's face it, not many people are celebrities. Muslim Americans are just like other Americans. They are doctors, lawyers, teachers, soldiers, engineers, business people, shop keepers, employees in businesses, housewives – and even in government. Keith Ellison was the first Muslim elected to Congress in 2007.

So why pick on them? Perhaps it is the fear of “the other.” It probably escalated

in more recent years with the suicide bombers in the Israeli/Palestine conflict. Then there was 9/11, al Qaeda, ISIS, the attack at the satirical publication, *Charlie Hebdo*, in Paris and the terrible bombings in Brussels. But American Muslims didn't have anything to do with these events – just like the German Americans, Italian Americans and Japanese Americans weren't responsible for World War II.

Living in Ann Arbor, not far from Dearborn, Michigan – the most populous community of Muslims in the country – there are plenty of follow-

ers of Islam around. Pious women are sometimes recognizable by their wearing of the *hijab* headdress and a few wearing *burkas*, fully covering the female face and body for modesty purposes. Most men just dress like anyone else and fit in with surroundings. They are good-natured, gentle and well-mannered.

We could use more of them, just like so many others who have come to this country and helped make it what it is.



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VOTE FOR CHUCK

Re-elect Chuck Warpehoski on Tuesday, August 2 - Democrat for Ann Arbor City Council



CHUCK WARPEHOSKI has worked to improve our quality of life and make our city more sustainable and inclusive:

- Increased city support for affordable housing
- Fought for stronger cleanup standards and better testing of the dioxane plume
- Led efforts to improve transit service
- Pushed for improved police training to address racial bias
- Championed progress to make the Allen Creek Greenway a reality

But most of Chuck's service to the 5th Ward happens outside of council chambers. From addressing sewer odors on Arborview to fixing streetlights on Ashley, from pushing MDOT for safer crosswalks on Huron to dealing with a problem construction site off Jackson, from addressing water quality in First Sister Lake to simply connecting people with the right person to talk to at City Hall, Chuck helps find solutions for the problems—big and small—that residents face.

Chuck moved mountains for us when DTE and the City couldn't agree on who was responsible for our streetlights being out more often than on for four years. It took his skill and persistence to break the stalemate and get our streetlights fixed permanently. Thanks, Chuck.

– Mark Hodesh, Downtown Home & Garden, Mark's Carts, Bill's Beer Garden

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Chuck Warpehoski, 2020 Winewood, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Meet Pony, Groundcover Vendor #305

by Maria Hagen
Groundcover Intern

“I want people to know I’m just trying to survive, trying to make it,” Pony said when asked what he thinks is most important for people to know about him. It was the first question of an impromptu interview in the Groundcover News office space at the end of May.

When you look at Pony or talk with him, you wouldn’t think he has been to prison, let alone spent a significant amount of time there, but he committed his first offense – breaking and entering – at the age of 20. It was the first in a series of crimes committed and sentences served.

Born on the north side of Detroit, Pony lived with his mother until he was about seven or eight. “She was a good person, nice. She used drugs, but she was good,” he said.

In spite of this, Pony was taken to a boys’ home because of neglect, or child abuse. He remained in boys’ homes until the age of 18.

“It was like being in an institution,” Pony said. “A bunch of boys, and you’re not with real family. You get introduced to the wrong crowd. They were mostly juveniles.”

He also had friends outside of the home with whom he went to different local shows.



Pony, Vendor #305, selling Groundcover News downtown Ann Arbor.

Despite growing up in the boys’ home, Pony managed to stay in touch with an aunt, Gloria Jean. “We were real tight,” Pony said. “She was like a mother to me.” Since then Pony has lost touch with her and her daughter, who passed away while he was in prison.

He has also lost touch with his sister, Neta, who is two years older. “Our birthdays are two days apart in the same month,” Pony told me. We broke off the interview to see if we could find her online, but our search was unsuccessful. Pony wants to reconnect with his family.

The nickname “Pony” came from a group of guys he hung around with for a while. “They called me Pony and I stuck with it,” he said. “I was selling

drugs at the time.”
In the late 1970s, Pony made his way to Ann Arbor and since then he has remained, off-and-on – when he was not in prison – working at Kroger or

Holiday Inn. As soon as he got out – after spending 18 years in prison – he went to Washtenaw County Community Mental Health in order try and get a state ID. It was difficult for Pony to even obtain his birth certificate – and without an ID, jobs are extremely difficult to find. Rania, a Groundcover News social work intern, eventually helped him work through the process.

Groundcover News became a part of Pony’s life when he met Kung Fu Panda, a nickname of another vendor, at the Delonis Center shelter in Ann Arbor. She walked by as we were talking and made sure that Pony remembered that. “I took him under my wing,” she said, as Pony laughed.

Pony has no permanent living space and is spending his nights at the Delonis Center. He is currently looking for jobs in landscaping so that he can afford a better place to live.

“I want people to know I’m just trying to survive, trying to make it.”

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— Desmond Tutu

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